

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, in association with the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, propose to launch Panchayat Yuva Khel Abhiyan through the networking of Panchayati Raj Institutions with the local units of the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan. The objective is to promote access for children and young people to organize sports and games; foster excellence in national and international sports events; encourage traditional sports and games; promote national integration; promote gender equality through sports; fight the growing menace of drug abuse; and promote community participation, self-esteem and pride at the grass roots.

The proposal is still at the initial stage and the scheme is being prepared in consultation with the State Governments. As at present envisaged, it is proposed to provide minimum funding to each Gram Panchayat for the preparation of play-grounds, particularly where there is no play ground. Additionally, though convergence with the other Government schemes such as sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana, the Backward Regions Grant Fund, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programmes, grants received from 12th Finance Commission and State Finance Commission etc. as well as State schemes, funds will be available to the village Panchayat and the local Nehru Yuvak Kendra in concurrence with the Gram Sabha, to build up sports facilities. It is further proposed to provide for recurring expenditure on sports equipments and other accessories.

MoUs with MNCs for development of rural India

180 MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to sign MoUs with multi-national companies for development of rural India through setting up business hubs in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof *inter-alia* indicating those that are proposed to be set up in Orissa;

(c) whether the farming community is also proposed to be involved in the process; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR):
(a) and (b) Government itself is not contemplating to sign any MoUs with multi-national companies for setting up Rural Business Hubs (RBH) for development in rural areas.

The Union Government, with the help of State Governments, Panchayats, the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) and other similar organizations is promoting the concept of RBH to connect rural producers and rural products to national and international markets with the help of business houses. Panchayati Raj Institutions are being facilitated to enter into MoUs with appropriate business partners. In respect of Orissa, a State Rural Business Hubs Council has been set up in collaboration with CII but thus far no specific proposal has been received for setting up RBHs in the State. The endeavour is continuing.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The farming community in the rural areas is being involved in the process of setting up and running of RBHs through facilitation provided by the Panchayati Raj Institutions. Under the RBH initiative, the different streams of activities include in plantation of Jatropha/bio-diesel production, agro-food processing, horticulture and fruit processing, seed production, organic food farming, dairying, bio-mass production etc. which will invariably involve farmers.

Task Force on Panchayati Raj jurisprudence

181. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the task force on Panchayati Raj jurisprudence had submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the said task force had recommended many things, including that Panchayat elections at all the three tiers be not held on party lines; and

(d) if so, the view of Government in this regard?